

WOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

JANUARY 1957

Vol. 102, No. 1



BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA



"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children . . ."

Deuteronomy 6:7

102
1957

First Steps in Bible Reading



Monkmeyer

"I ain't goin' to read it, mister," said the young recruit at Great Lakes Naval Training Station as he tossed back the little blue-covered Testament which had been given to him the day before with his promise to read it.

"What's the trouble, son?"

"It reads like the telephone directory."

The sailor had begun, as anyone would, to read his new book at the beginning. But much as the mature Christian finds to inspire him in the genealogy of Jesus, to this raw beginner in Bible reading the first fifteen verses of Matthew were mostly lists of meaningless names.

For those who have read the Bible and, indeed, for many who, like this lad, have started unsuccessfully, some suggestions on how to begin one's reading are often helpful. Much of the Bible is not easy to read. For the beginner, first steps in Bible reading are often

most successfully taken by beginning with the New Testament. It tells of Christ, without whom we should not have the Bible. He is the center of its message. To know Him is to find the urge to read not only all about Him and the results of His coming, but to know the older Scriptures that He read and knew.

The sailor at Great Lakes might well have been advised to begin his reading with the Gospel of Mark. It is one of the most exciting pieces of biography ever written. The first chapter relates at least a half-dozen stirring incidents. The story moves with ever-heightened tempo to the end. A good first step, although a long one in Bible reading, would be to read the whole Gospel of Mark at a sitting. So much has been made of Bible reading by chapters that most readers have never thought of doing what they would with a short secular story—read it through to the end. Mark can be read in less than two hours. Anyone who reads Mark earnestly at one sitting will have come closer to his Master than he ever was before.

One who has read Mark will want to read the other Gospels. Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline, add much that Jesus said and did and go far to satisfy the hunger to know the Great Friend better. John is the personal Gospel. In it Jesus seems to be talking directly to the reader. By reading two hours a day one can read the four Gospels in a week and gain a more complete understanding of the life of Christ.

The reading of the Gospels suggests a general principle for first steps in Bible reading. It is this: Read biography at first. There is nothing more interesting to a person than other people. The Bible is filled with biography. It is one of the principal channels of its divine teaching.

There are at least three short Old Testament books that are set in the biographical mold—Ruth, Esther and Jonah. Read them in their entirety. The last fourteen chapters of Genesis contain the most complete biographical sketch in the Bible—the story of Joseph, one of the most dramatic ever written. The next fourteen chapters—those that open the Book of Exodus—contain the story of Moses in Egypt. Neither story is as long as the Book of Mark.

There is no better way to enter into a program of enthusiastic regular Bible reading than to read the stories of its people, beginning with the Gospels. Only a few of these stories have been suggested here. The Society will gladly send any reader who desires them two leaflets designed to help in taking these first steps in Bible reading.* They are entitled "Men and Women of the Bible" and "Stories of the Bible." Send your request to *Bible Society Record*, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

—Francis Carr Stiffler

*Single copies will be sent without cost. In greater quantities the cost is fifty cents a hundred or two for one cent.—Ed.

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 102 JANUARY · 1957 NUMBER 1

Editorial

THE NEW YEAR—THE EAGER FACE OF A CHILD—AND THE BIBLE

THE NEW YEAR—the eager face of a child—and the Bible; how can the three become one? How can the children of America learn to appreciate and live by the Holy Scriptures?

At least a part of the answer is found in the words from Deuteronomy on this page.

If children are to love the Word of God, it must first be in the hearts of the parents . . . not just in their heads, but in their hearts, directing their lives. Many parents need to start the New Year with a definite plan of daily Bible reading, for only through disciplined program can the Book be in the heart.

Wise parents teach the Word of God diligently to their children by making the Bible a part of their daily conversation. Reading and quoting the Bible should be as natural in the Christian home as speaking about the weather.

Teaching also demands basic knowledge, for most real appreciation is based on knowledge. Many of us at a concert like best the encores; that is because they for us are the familiar selections. Few people appreciate great literature or painting or music until they first know something about the subject.

The same is true in even greater measure of the Bible. It is impossible to do problems in long division without first learning the multiplication facts. It is quite difficult for a fourth-grade child to learn to use a dictionary if he has not first mastered the alphabet. By the same token children need to memorize the order of the books of the Bible and hold a Bible in their hands to read great passages.

Sometimes a young person says, "I can't get anything out of the Bible." Further conversation will nearly always reveal that he knows practically nothing about the Bible. Ignorant of its contents, he is missing the strength, the daily comfort and the salvation offered to him in the Word of God. No one has taught him diligently, and he has not tried to learn.

A description of first steps in Bible reading appears on the opposite page. The New Year is an inviting time for us to start—to have more of the Bible in our own hearts and to do more diligent Bible teaching.

—Robert T. Taylor

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Command to Go

BY JACOB DESHAZER

ON APRIL 18, 1942 I was standing on the deck of the Aircraft Carrier *Hornet*. The order had come to "clear the deck." The motors were roaring on the "B-25's" as we headed into the wind toward Japan. There were sixteen of the bombers on the deck of the carrier. The waves were high, reaching the sixty-foot-high deck of the *Hornet*. The wind howled as we faced into it.

General Doolittle was in position for take-off. He had only four hundred feet of runway. The best the plane could do was seven hundred feet on the ground, but he made it, much to the relief of all the airmen. One sergeant, "Scotty," came up to me and said, "Jake, we just got one chance in a thousand of ever getting out of this alive." I wished then that I could be back on the farm in Oregon.

On December 28, 1948, just six years later, I stood with my wife and little boy on the shore of Yokohama, Japan. This time I was there as a messenger of the King who said, "Go."

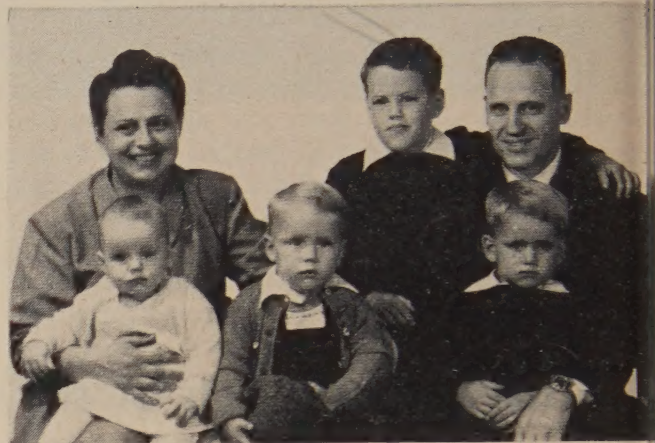
The Japanese were naturally surprised. Perhaps one hundred or more newspaper men had come aboard the ship to interview me. They had an honest question in their minds: Why would a former prisoner come back to Japan? They knew the treatment prisoners had received.

I had spent forty months in a Japanese prison, thirty-six of them in solitary confinement and had only wanted to have revenge on my captors. Then a surprising thing had happened. The prison official, Captain Kato, had given us who were captured an American Standard Edition of the Bible. I read it through, and what a joy that Bible became! For me life sprang out of its inspired pages. "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." There in that prison I gave my heart to Christ. Therefore I am committed to do what He says. His words, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," had brought me back to these shores.

As I talked to the reporters that day, I brought their minds to focus on the news of Jesus Christ. I told them what had happened nearly two thousand years ago when the One who brought salvation to all men stood on this earth. I told them of His cross and resurrection and how Japan needed to find the triumphant meaning of these great events.

For one month a newspaper man kept in touch with me and wrote about something that happened in my work each day. I was convinced that "the entrance of Thy word giveth light," and so I merely used the words of the Bible. I felt a deep longing to see conversions that would bring the joy that I myself had experienced.

When I was still talking to the newspaper men, a man who later became my good friend stood listening. I promised to spend the rest of my life trying to help the Japanese people to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Reverend Kaneo Oda heard this, he came over to my side, shook my hand and said with tears in his eyes, "I'll help you be a



The former Doolittle flyer, now turned missionary, with his family. While a prisoner of war, Jacob DeShazer found God

good missionary." It was one of God's providences and proved to be a great blessing.

For two years Oda gave his whole time to me. He was burdened with church work and he had a family, but he forsook all to go out with me and preach. In one ten-day campaign we saw 30,000 people indicate their interest in following Christ. These were not conversions; but in one church two hundred came forward and prayed, gave their names and made decisions. Sixty of these two hundred were baptized after six months and taken into the church.

We went to factories, mines, schools, churches, department stores, policemen's gatherings, out on the streets and into many homes and found that the Japanese wanted to see genuine love and true Christianity. The American Bible Society contributed hundreds of thousands of Gospel of John, which we distributed in these exciting years.

As we worked with these people we found that the simple facts of who Christ is, made people hungry for eternal life. The people were made glad as they understood the love God has shown to mankind through Christ. We knew the power of the Word of God in those days. My wife held meetings every night using a flannelgram and telling Bible stories, for many people came to our home out of curiosity.

It was a great thrill to distribute the Scriptures. Before long I was able to speak to the Japanese in their own language and thus win them to Christ. One young fellow recently accepted the Lord and has turned out to be a good leader. He organized two classes of thirty and forty high school students. In these classes we used New Testaments published by the Japan Bible Society, and since they contained both the English and Japanese texts, I was able to teach in both languages.

We are now back in America, where I am taking further theological training so that I may be used more effectively when I return to Japan.



H. Armstrong Roberts

Using the Bible in Worship

BY THE REV. GEORGE MILNE

WE LIVE in an age when the Bible receives a good deal of lip service, but when a majority of modern Americans are quite unfamiliar with it. During the past year our church has tried to do its part to remedy this situation by emphasizing the centrality of the Bible in our worship.

One of our members made a gift of Bibles for the church pews. These were an inexpensive edition, with board bindings and large, clear type, published in the King James Version. The Bibles were, of course, all alike. Inside the back cover we pasted a portion of what had been the paper dust-cover of the book, with a fine list of "Where to Look in the Bible" in various circumstances of need. This in itself has led to thoughtful Bible reading before a service begins.

In place of the oft-repeated hymnbook selections we have been reading responsively from the Bible itself. In the church bulletin we indicate the passage—first by chapter and verse, and then by the pages on which it can be found. With uniform numbering this is easy and effective, and no one, no matter how unfamiliar he may be with the Bible, has any difficulty in finding the place.

This method has several exciting possibilities. In the first place, it gives the minister and the congregation the whole Bible in which to roam for the selection of devotional readings; it eliminates that deadly certainty of the selection being one of a time-worn fifty-two. In the second place, it gives the congregation a chance to read the passage in context, rather

than isolated and edited; and in this, I think, far more is gained in realism than is lost. In the third place, people are often stimulated to read what comes before or what comes after the particular passage read.

The selections we use vary in length from twelve to twenty verses. Usually the minister reads the odd-numbered verses, and the congregation responds with the even-numbered ones. The whole process of responsive reading seems to some folk a rather mechanical affair and it may indeed so be, but we have found that where the people are actually interested in the text, this form of reading does give them an opportunity of participation. As this article is written I have just finished planning selections for a year, which will include a wide range of chapters representing the great moments and thoughts of both the Old and New Testaments.

I have not hesitated to include narrative, didactic and theological portions; it seems to me that one reason for the ineffectiveness to many people of so-called "devotional readings" is that these are couched in the rarefied medium of the emotions and of poetic language and imagery, rather than in terms of acts, events, thoughts and specific places and people.

This use of the Bible, we have found, not only brings a new life and alertness into our church services, but it actually helps our people to use the Bible themselves and to discover where some of its exciting, memorable and saving passages can be found.

The Bible Speaks Today

BY DR. OSWALD C. J. HOFFMANN

Delivered on Universal Bible Sunday during the Lutheran Hour, which was aired on the Mutual Broadcasting System and the National Broadcasting Company radio networks.

I DO NOT HAVE to offer any arguments for the Bible. The Bible speaks for itself. It is because of the existence of the Bible that there are Christians in the world and that there is a Christian Church. For it is in the Bible that men have found Jesus Christ, their Saviour. Through the witness of this Word of God men have come to faith in Christ, and through their witness, based upon the Bible, others have come to faith. So the process has gone on, ignoring the barriers of nationality and of differences in language, till millions have come to regard Jesus Christ as their most precious possession. They owe this possession to the continuing power of the Holy Spirit of God Himself speaking through the Bible.

The Bible is not just another book. It can't just be read and laid aside. You can't just take it or leave it, the way you can with even the best and the most powerful books that have become part of our literature. For the Bible is not just an accurate and faithful representation of life. It is not just beautiful poetry and pious thoughts and holy words. It is the Voice of God speaking to the doubts, the anxieties, and the sin of our time. It is the compelling Word of God which caused the prophet Jeremiah to cry out, in the twenty-second chapter, the twenty-ninth verse, of his prophecy, "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord!"

The prophet addressed the whole nation; indeed, he addressed the whole world. His words, which are themselves the Word of God, urge each one of us to shake off the spiritual lethargy that constantly seeks to get a strangle hold on our lives and to listen to the Word of God. Listening in this case means hearing what God has to say and accepting what God has to tell us.

The Bible is the record of God reaching out into human history. Throughout, it is the story of His pronouncements upon sin and wickedness. It tells us how God chose a nation to be His own people; how He dealt with that nation, preparing them for the coming of His Chosen One; how He broke in upon the world in the Person of Jesus Christ; and how He extended salvation and forgiveness to all through the cross of Christ. The Bible also tells the



Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffmann speaks weekly on the Lutheran Hour.

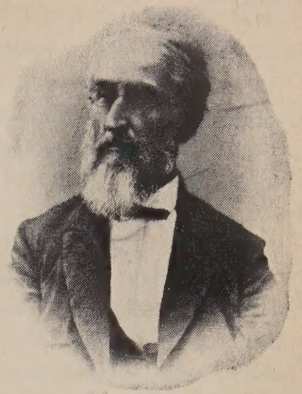
story of how the Spirit of God carried this message into all the world.

It is a great panorama which the Bible spreads before us as we read. Over the whole scene towers the figure of Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ coming into the world, Jesus Christ dying for the sins of mankind, Jesus Christ illuminating with radiance and glory the lives of those who believe in Him, and Jesus Christ coming again for a final judgment, a final redemption. In the cross of Christ is forgiveness for all men—that is the message of the Bible. Because this message of salvation and redemption in Jesus Christ is always the same and is always needed by sinful men, the Bible speaks to us today.

It is really a wonder that a book written so long ago still has the power to speak to us today. After all, the people who wrote these sixty-six books were very different from us. They lived in a pre-scientific era. They had an entirely different culture from ours. They lived in a different kind of world. All this may be true; but it is also true that we have not invented any new kinds of sin. This fact becomes inescapable when you read the Bible. The people whom God dealt with in the Scriptures had the same kind of hopes and fears, the same dreams and aspirations, and unfortunately, the same faults and shortcomings as we do. In short, they were people very much like ourselves. The Bible is the story of how God judged them and how He judges us. His judgment has not diminished in severity or stringency. He still looks upon sin as sin, and He still proclaims that the wages of sin is death.

(Continued on page 10)

S. Wells Williams—Printer and Diplomat



It is said that a woman once put a slip of paper in a missionary offering plate saying, "I give two sons." One of these sons was Samuel Wells Williams, who became a pioneer missionary to China, a brilliant linguist, a diplomat who helped open Japan to Western trade and the ninth President of the American Bible Society.

When you visit the Library of the American Bible Society you will be shown the portrait of S. Wells Williams, with white whiskers and twinkling eyes. Like his father, who was a charter member of the Bible Society, Williams was a printer. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, recognizing the importance of the printed page, sent him to China to operate the mission press.

In the first half of the nineteenth century both China and Japan were openly hostile to foreigners. In his still-authoritative two-volume history of China, *The Middle Kingdom*, Williams wrote, "On my arrival at Canton in 1833, I was officially reported, with two other Americans, to the *hong* merchant, Kingqua, as *fan-kwai*, or foreign devils."

In 1837 Williams went to Japan with a ship returning home shipwrecked sailors to their homeland. The Japanese refused to permit them to land; so, on returning to China, Williams took several of the men into his own home. From them he learned Japanese, and so he was well equipped for the task of translating for Commodore Perry when Japan agreed to trade with America.

After years of opposition from the Chinese government Williams was instrumental in the negotiation of the Treaty of Tientsin, which provided for the toleration of both Chinese and foreign Christians. Williams reported, "In 1874, as Secretary of the American embassy in Peking, I accompanied the ambassador to the presence of the Emperor, Tung-chi, when the Minister of the United States presented his letters of credence on a footing of perfect equality with the Son of Heaven." In 1874 Williams saw his monumental dictionary of the Chinese language through the press, and shortly thereafter retired to become a professor of Oriental studies at Yale University.

On March 7, 1881 S. Wells Williams wrote in his diary, "The official notice of my election to the post of President of the Bible Society came to me this morning . . . I receive it as an honor done to the mission work of the American churches of every denomination." He served as president until his death three years later, regarding himself in this capacity as representative of "the close connection between teaching, translating and distributing the Scriptures in pagan lands." The Christian mission that S. Wells Williams envisioned is still the vital principle that continues to guide the work of the American Bible Society today.

—Cynthia Boyer

100 years ago . . .

Bible Society Record.

NEW YORK, JANUARY, 1857

The following lines were taken from two letters printed in the January 1857 Bible Society Record. They well express the spirit of the American Bible Society then and now.—Eds.

CONSTANTINOPLE

My Dear Brother:—I am happy to announce, that the New Testament in Armeno-Turkish, so long and so loudly called for, is now ready for delivery. The former edition has been for a long time entirely exhausted; while the progress of the Reformation has created a demand for it unprecedented in former years. It is now many months since any one has been able to get a whole loaf for himself; and even the few crumbs, the broken fragments, which any one may have been able to obtain, he has had to share with his famishing neighbors. I am, I do think, truly thankful, that I was permitted to return here from America, and that my life and health have been spared to prepare for the perishing people a fresh supply of this bread of heaven . . .

—W. GOODELL

PARIS

My Dear Brother:—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of Bibles and Testaments, sent by the steamer *Susquehanna*. They all came safely to me, after being detained several months in the Gulf of Mexico, where, as you know, the frigate was ordered so unexpectedly. I distributed one hundred copies of English Bibles aboard the *Constellation*, fifty copies among the crew of the *Susquehanna*, and over a hundred copies were placed in the different messes, in charge of the cook, and are subject to the weekly inspection, just as the other articles in the mess are. The number of the mess is ensealed on them, and each member has access daily and freely to the Scriptures, and is of course responsible for the safe return of the same to the mess.

—MASON NOBLE

WE HAVE A responsibility to God, for we have been entrusted with His saving Word—the Word of God in the Bible. We have a responsibility to God and the world because He has entrusted this Word to us not only for our own sakes, but that the world might have this Word and through it might be saved.

What is this responsibility? We do not seek here to answer this question in terms of the kinds of work that has to be done—which is every aspect of Bible Society activity. We are facing the question in terms of degree. How great is the responsibility that is laid on the members and friends of the American Bible Society, on its staff, on the Churches and Christian people of America?

It is perhaps to the credit of America that it has been regarded as slow to accept its great role in world affairs. But ought this slowness be true also of American Christianity's responsibility for the spread of the Gospel? Let us look at some facts concerning the role of its Bible Society in the world of Bible Society work.

First: The income of the American Bible Society from its living donors is one-third larger than the income of all the other Bible Societies put together, but—. The Society's total circulation in 1955 was 40 per cent more than all the rest put together, but—.

Second: The principal sources of support for world distribution of the Scriptures are the American Bible Society; the British and Foreign Bible Society in Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia; the National Bible Society of Scotland; and the Netherlands Bible Society. Valiant as other Societies are, the *potential* contribution of any of them is rela-

A Plain Statement God and

be seen that our tremendous resources lay upon us a vast responsibility.

"Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." (The word of Jesus in Luke 12:48.)

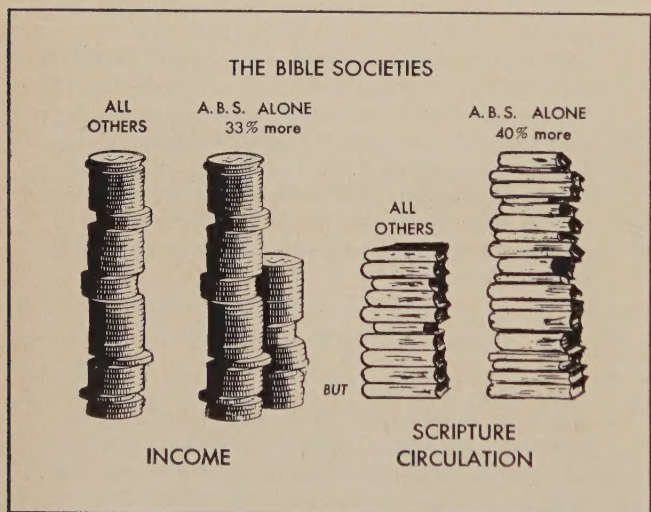
Third: And here is the meaning of "but" in the "First" paragraph preceding: Though we have the wealth, though we are providing more than others, what we are doing is not at all commensurate with our capacity and with the need. Look at the figures on the large graph.

If America would give to her Bible Society even at the rate per capita of less wealthy Canada, the available income would be *two and a half times* greater!

In the light of these facts, the American Bible Society should undertake more than two thirds of the whole burden (beyond the available commercial channels) of supplying the world with the Holy Scriptures.

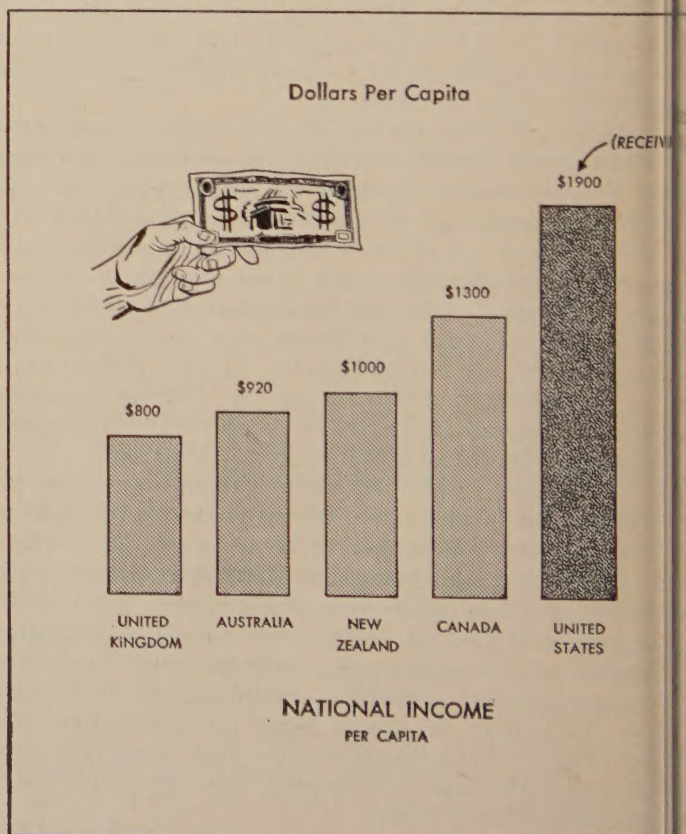
How large is that burden?

1) Let us begin right at home. There are probably 27 million people over thirteen years of age in America who do not have a connection with any religious body. Add these



tively small. For the national income of America is more than twice the per-capita combined national incomes of the other countries here named! The per-capita national income of the United Kingdom is less than \$800, of New Zealand \$1,000, of Canada \$1,300. The per-capita national income of the United States is \$1,900!

Couple this with the fact that America has twice the population of all the others combined, and it can



Our Responsibility to World

children, and they are some 38 million. They are not our responsibility alone; but our responsibility for the spread and use of the Scriptures in evangelism among them is very great—to say nothing of our part in the ministry of the Scriptures to the *marginal church member* often not really in touch with the church; 27,-000,000 people in America—not Catholics, not Jews, not Buddhists, just not anything—to whom the Bible is unknown or a matter of indifference!

2) Now let us lift our eyes and look on the world. The Bible Societies of the world and our own, principally among them, *distribute fewer Scriptures* in the lands for which we are practically *the sole source* of supply than in lands (like our own) where along with Bible Society work there are large publishing houses also distributing the Scriptures. Observe—in England, Scotland and the English-speaking dominions, Switzerland, Germany, Scandinavia, Greece and the United States the Bible Societies issued three quarters of a million more Bibles than in all Asia, Africa, Latin America and the rest of the world—and 800,000 more

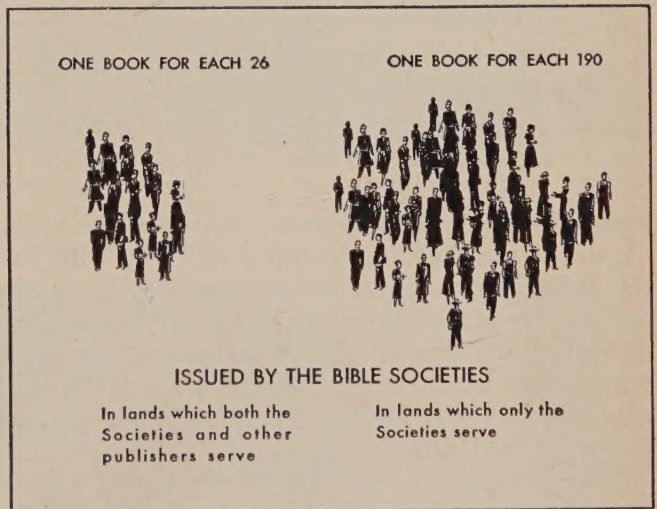
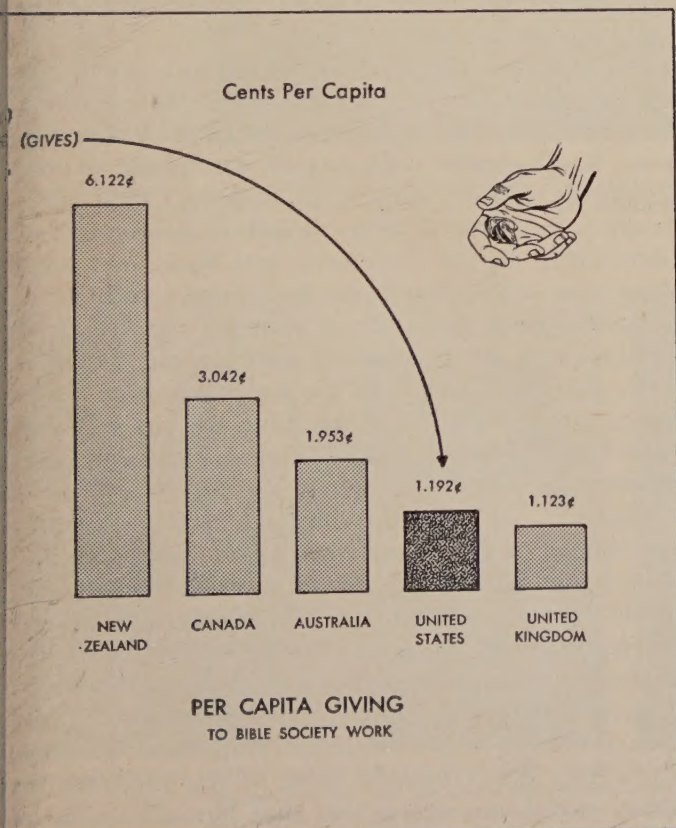
Testaments and a million more Gospels. Yet there are six times as many people in the countries for which the Bible Societies are practically the sole source of supply.

Let us put it in another way: In the lands of Christian privilege, with many sources of supply, the Bible Societies issue one item of Scripture (even a Gospel) for every 26 people. In the areas of greatest missionary need, where the Bible Societies are the *sole* source of supply, they issue only one item of Scripture for every 190 people. Indeed, in the lands of privilege they issued 1,808,495 Bibles and 1,642,-062 New Testaments, but in the other lands with 6 times the population they issued only 1,148,339 Bibles and 1,471,916 Testaments (figures for 1955).

This is not to say that we should cease our work, say, in America. Twenty-seven million Bible-less people would prohibit that! But it is to say that we have not adequately measured our task at home and abroad and called upon the tremendous competence of America to do its full part.

When we look at our relation to the American missionary scene we find that the mission boards of forty denominations are at work in 88 countries or geographic units. The American Bible Society is in one degree or another supplying the Scriptures, making special grants or subsidizing local Societies in 66 of these 88, and our sister Societies in the rest. The channels of operation are established.

Yet, as a matter of fact *the total Scripture circulation by the Bible Societies is less than the annual increase in the world's population!*



The issues of whole Bibles and Testaments is barely one fifth of the world's annual increase in population.

The measure of our responsibility to God and the world is *very great!* The American Bible Society ought to triple its circulation in the next five years. It can be done with no more than twice the present income.

And Christian America being what it is, it can be done.

Will you?

—Eric M. North

These are

The Bible Lands



Paul's Photos

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Matt. 2:13-15

THE two verses quoted above give us all we know about the flight of Joseph and Mary with the infant Jesus into Egypt. However, not far from the ancient city of Heliopolis in Egypt is the little village of Matariyeh. This ancient sycamore tree has been pointed out to travelers since the seventeenth century as a spot where Joseph, Mary and the holy child rested on their flight.

This picture is one of nearly 600 actual photographs, many of them taken exclusively for the book. The American Bible Society's Illustrated New Testament is designed to add reality to the events, teachings and background of the New Testament record.

This is the first time the New Testament has ever been published in this form, with a wealth of authentic photographs accompanying the text.

The Illustrated New Testament is available at \$2, postpaid, from the nearest depository of the American Bible Society.

The Bible Speaks Today (Continued from page 6)

If God shows Himself in the Bible as a God of judgment, He also makes it clear that He is a God of salvation. He is a God who reaches out to redeem people and to save them from themselves, to save them from the evil that would overtake them, to save them from the death which they truly deserve. That is why Jesus Christ occupies such an important place in the Bible. He is God's answer to the sins of men.

The Bible has a power all its own, because of that Good News in Jesus Christ, to bring people to believe in God and to trust in Him, to heal them of their hurts and to give them hope and comfort in the face of death. The Bible is quick and powerful to reach the hearts of men because the Bible speaks today.

Dr. Eugene Nida tells the story of a young man who impetuously demanded of a Bible Society representative to be given what he called the "best book on your faith." The young man evidently was seeking a book about the faith, a book about the Bible. He was induced, however, to take a New Testament. He left defiant and unimpressed. Five months later he returned, a different person. Purely on the basis of what he had read he had made some important discoveries. "First," he said, "I found you've got to read the book like a child, for you can't argue with it." Another discovery he described this way: "I never knew a man could love like that." He was talking about Jesus Christ, of course. And then he added, "You know, I can't always trust myself, my prayers or my meditations, but I know I'll never be closer to God than this Book brings me."

Learn to search the Scriptures; and when you search, search for Jesus Christ. The Bible is not a dead book; it is not a museum peopled by wax figures. Real people walk across the pages of the Scriptures, and the flaming life of Jesus Christ overshadows the lives of these people. Unless you find Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, you don't find anything at all. "You search the Scriptures," said Christ to the Pharisees, "for ye think in them ye have eternal life, but they are they which testify of me." If you don't find Jesus Christ in the Scriptures, you don't find anything at all. Open the Bible and you will find Jesus Christ. Finding Jesus Christ, you will make the greatest discovery of all.

You, too, can make this discovery. It doesn't make any difference right now whether you are a faithful church member or whether you have seldom stepped inside the door of a church. New life and new power can come to you if you open your heart to the Word of God speaking to you through the pages of the Bible. Take it and read it. Do not put it down until it has spoken directly into your heart. Begin with the sure knowledge that God will speak to you through the Bible, and I can assure you that He will speak to you—for the Bible speaks today.

Stories in Pictures . . .



THE NEW BIBLE HOUSE IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES: A promise for greater service in the future. Over 1,000,000 volumes are being circulated annually in Argentina. An open Bible in the entryway attracts a passer-by.



ON A BUSY STREET IN BOMBAY: A bus conductor pauses to purchase Scriptures from a colporteur. Literacy in India is about 17 percent, but is increasing rapidly. The Bible Societies must supply Scriptures for new readers.



A BIBLE VAN FOR LEBANON: Secretaries Friedlieb and Accad stand by the new van which will make possible distribution in previously unreached areas. The Arabic words mean "Read the Bible" and "Bible Society, Place de l'Etoile, Beirut." Free grants go to refugees, the blind and the prisons.



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING IN PHILIPPINES: Representatives of all Churches and major Missions meet regularly to consult with Secretaries Fonger and Taglucop. A new colporteur has been employed. Free grants are made to leper colonies and prisons. Circulation has increased to a quarter million volumes annually.



AIRMEN RECEIVE BIBLES: Chaplain James A. Cruze hands a Bible to Airman James C. Spurger. The men with him are waiting to receive their choice of the various publications of the Bible received from the American Bible Society.



AT EXHIBITION OF SCRIPTURES IN MACAO FROM HONGKONG: Mr. Ko Chung Woo, manager of Bible Society Hongkong Book Shop at the Scripture exhibition he prepared in the Macao Baptist Church in the Portuguese colony of Macao. He is shown with a visitor examining a pulpit Bible and one of the smallest Bibles in the world.

A Noble Veteran Passes On

ONE of the great Christian servants of humanity, the Reverend Dr. Hugh C. Tucker, formerly Secretary of the Brazil Agency of the American Bible Society, died on November 4 in his one hundredth year at the home of his daughter, Mrs. L. A. Estes, in Media, Penna.

A young circuit-rider preacher from the hills of Tennessee, he began his foreign career as pastor of the American Church in Rio de Janeiro, 1885, when that country was ruled by an emperor. Gifted with a warm, sanguine and friendly temperament, clear thought and practical vision, he had an astonishing record of service to the country. It was his alertness that brought to Rio the first effective efforts to control the scourge of yellow fever. This was followed by similar stimulation of the treatment of tuberculosis and of leprosy. The Seamen's Home, the People's Central Institute (a remarkable social settlement), the first public playground, the American Lending Library, the Rio Young Men's Christian Association, the Evangelical Confederation



of Churches, the Sunday School Association, the Brazil-United States Institute—all owed in large measure their origin to his initiative and support.

He gave himself liberally to the interests of his Church, the Methodist, in Brazil. Even after his retirement he was engaged in some sixteen enterprises and kept active participation in some even into his nineties.

These multiplied activities meant no reduction in his work for the Bible cause. His early years saw pioneering-distribution journeys by canoe and muleback, with facing of both hardship and danger. During his long term of forty-seven years of service he saw the circulation of Scriptures multiply by twenty. At his inspiration a handsome and serviceable Bible House was erected in Rio in 1933. In 1934 he was awarded by the Brazilian Government the Order of the Southern Cross. He demonstrated in exceptional measure that compassion for humankind that marked his Master and Lord.



COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL, Ford C. Frick (second from right) shows members of Armed Forces 1956 poster for Worldwide Bible Reading program. Originated by an unknown service man during Guadalcanal campaign of World War II, the program began its thirteenth year on Thanksgiving Day and continued through Christmas Day. The program, sponsored by the American Bible Society, seeks to unite people throughout the globe by encouraging daily

readings of identical pre-selected Biblical passages during the 32 days of its observance. With Commissioner Frick are (left to right) Pfc. Richard D. Vadnais, U. S. Army, Springfield, Mass.; YN/3 Lorraine Naffziger, U.S.N., Dixon, Ill.; S/Sgt. DeWitt G. Phelan, U.S.M.C., Yonkers, N.Y.; and T/Sgt. Vincent J. Long, U.S.A.F., Roxbury, N.Y. Commissioner Frick is a member of the Society's sponsoring committee for Worldwide Bible Reading.

By-Lines on the Bible

THE Translations Department of the American Bible Society gets many requests for its linguistic services, some of them quite unusual. Recently a lady wrote to the Department, asking that a certain sentence be translated into twenty Asian languages. Her sentence was, "I like Ike."

THEOLOGICAL students in countries behind the Iron Curtain are receiving gifts of scholarly editions of the Holy Scriptures from the American Bible Society. Since 1948 the Society has been sending yearly shipments of Greek New Testaments, Hebrew Old Testaments and concordances. Students, faculties and pastors depend on the American Bible Society as their only source for the volumes so necessary to them in their studies of the Word of God. Several months ago 180 volumes of these texts for scholars were sent to Bishop Jan, the Metropolitan of Prague and all Czechoslovakia. The United Bible Societies' office in London has just received a letter saying: "I consider, as my pleasant duty, to thank you for this beautiful present, which will make use by our Church for the purpose of Orthodox theological faculty." A shipment of 2,000 volumes is now on its way to students and faculties in East Germany and 100 copies to Yugoslavia. Because of these gifts of American Christians the leaders and future leaders of Churches behind the Iron Curtain are able to study for themselves the Holy Scriptures in the original languages.

BANDUNG, INDONESIA (RNS)—A series of policy decisions aimed at increasing Bible distribution in Southeast Asia were adopted at a meeting attended by Bible Society representatives in nearby Tjimbuleuit. Present in addition to United Bible Societies officials and workers from India, Ceylon, Thailand, Malaya, Hongkong and Indonesia were staff members of the older Bible Societies of the Netherlands, Great Britain, Scotland, Australia and the United States. The group formed a Standing Committee for Southeast Asia. They urged the construction of Bible Houses in various countries and the purchase of a central printing press as well as of a number of trucks to facilitate the distribution of Bibles in the great back-country reaches of the areas represented. They also recommended the holding of a regional conference, greater exchange of visits between representatives of the various national Bible Societies in Asia and more extensive tours of the area by United Bible Society staff members. Dr. Laton E. Holmgren of New York, American Bible Society Secretary for Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands, addressed the conference.



GOVERNOR McKeldin of Maryland, an active churchman, has been a Sunday-school teacher since early manhood and is a member of the Board of Managers of the Maryland Bible Society, one of the American Bible Society's strongest and most generous auxiliaries. This year he again came to the Bible House just before Christmas to lay in the supplies of Scripture materials for the visitors to the Executive Mansion at Christmas time, or to present to those he meets while traveling throughout the State.

GUATEMALA is one of the brightest spots in the Society's work abroad; distribution in 1954 was greater than for all Central American republics together in any year prior to 1950. Circulation increased from 71,858 volumes in 1949 to 193,465 in 1954. The total will probably be even higher for 1956. Because of this rapid expansion the American Bible Society has established in Guatemala a new distribution and service depot, with Mr. Ralph Rice, an able and experienced distributor, in charge. Let us remember Guatemala and Mr. Rice in our daily prayers.



THERE are areas in the Middle East where all that is left of the once thriving ancient Christian Churches is but a shadow of an old tradition. An instance of this came to light in an experience of colporteur Vahram Tatikyan, who spent a month last year in the central and northern parts of Turkey visiting some of the Armenian communities there. Of his visit to one town he reports: "I was walking down the street, a complete stranger, not knowing whom to turn to, when suddenly a stone fell at my feet from a tree I was passing under. I looked around and saw that it had been thrown by some children who were trying to dislodge their ball from the branches. After cautioning them about being more careful in the future, I asked them their names. They were Armenian names, so I asked to be taken to their home, as I had some books to show them and stories to tell. I was soon taken to a home where the children and their mothers gathered round while I told them about the Bible and the words of Life they would find there. As I spoke of 'Hisus Kristus' (the Armenian form of Jesus Christ) I had a feeling that they did not recognize that name. I asked the children if they knew who He was, and they replied that they had never heard of Him. The mothers said 'We know of Him, but we are all alone here with no one to teach us about Him. How can we teach our children?' So I spent several hours with them teaching them the Good News, after which we parted with prayer."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Society Record

Published Continuously Since 1818

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the

Managing Editor

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 102 JANUARY 1957 No. 1

November Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, November 1, 1956, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary Roy I. Madsen.

The Board approved for publication the text of the Gospel of Mark in Kiyaka, tentative editions of Acts and Romans in Anuak, the text of the Gospel of John in Kpelle, the

revised text of Genesis in Siamese, the text of the Gospel of John in Ibanag, the revised text of the Gospel of Matthew in Tagalog, the text of Genesis and the revised text of Psalms in Bolivian Quechua, the text of the Kekchi New Testament, the text of Mark in Guerrero Aztec, the text of James in Mezquital Otomi and the text of John and Acts in Isthmus Zapotec.

It was reported that the total distribution during the first half of 1956 in the United States was 3,303,631 volumes as compared with 3,244,609 for the same period of 1955.

Distribution to the blind during the first nine months of 1956 totaled 42,513 as compared with 31,570 volumes for the same period of 1955.

It was also reported that during 1956 the Society has presented 1,200 Bibles and 2,000 New Testaments to the Merchant Marine Library Association for placing in the libraries of all U. S. merchant vessels as needed.

A copy of the newly published Navajo New Testament, "God Bizad," was presented.

A grant of German, English, Arabic, Armenian, Russian, Thai, Aymara, Tzeltal, Ilocano and Hiligaynon Scriptures to pastors and theological faculties in Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary was authorized.

Dr. Ivan L. Bennett at the Pentagon

Dr. Ivan L. Bennett, American Bible Society Secretary in Washington, D.C., gave the Thanksgiving address at the Pentagon. Three thousand Worldwide Bible

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

1957 JANUARY			1957		
Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Psalms	1:1-6	16	Luke	9:28-62
2	Psalms	23:1-6	17	Luke	10:1-24
3	Psalms	27:1-14	18	Luke	10:25-42
4	Psalms	34:1-22	19	Luke	11:1-28
5	Psalms	46:1-11	20	Luke	11:29-54
6	Luke	2:40-52	21	Luke	12:1-34
7	Luke	3:1-23	22	Luke	12:35-59
8	Luke	4:1-32	23	Luke	13:1-35
9	Luke	5:1-17	24	Luke	14:1-35
10	Luke	5:18-39	25	Acts	9:1-22
11	Luke	6:1-26	26	Acts	9:23-43
12	Luke	6:27-49	27	Acts	10:1-23
13	Luke	7:1-23	28	Acts	10:24-48
14	Luke	7:24-50	29	Acts	11:1-30
15	Luke	9:1-27	30	Psalms	71:1-24
			31	Psalms	73:1-28

FEBRUARY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Proverbs	13:1-25	9	Acts	16:25-40
2	Proverbs	22:1-29	10	Acts	17:1-21
3	Proverbs	24:1-34	11	Acts	17:22-34
4	Proverbs	25:14-28	12	Daniel	9:3-19
5	Isaiah	43:1-21	13	Job	1:1-22
6	Isaiah	60:1-22	14	Job	2:1-13
7	Isaiah	61:1-11	15	Job	23:1-17
8	Acts	16:1-24	16	Job	38:1-41

A list of Daily Readings for the entire year may be obtained by writing to the Publicity Department, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22.

Reading church bulletins were used to print the program for the meeting, and a seven-foot enlargement of the Worldwide Bible Reading poster was on display in the Pentagon, where it was estimated that 10,000 people a day would view it. The poster also showed an enlargement of the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas reading list and, on the other side, the Bible passage for the day.

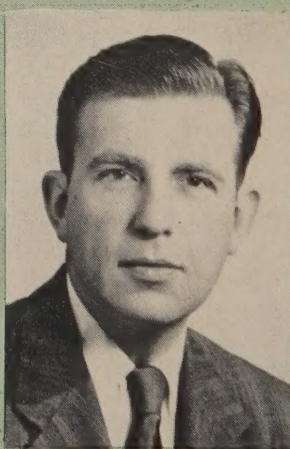
Dr. Nettinga to Direct Educational Publicity

REV. DR. JAMES Z. NETTINGA, District Secretary for the Southern California district of the American Bible Society for the past seven years, has been appointed Secretary of the Society in charge of educational publicity. In his new post he will be one of seven officers who administer the Society's affairs.

He will assume some of his new duties immediately but will not transfer his office from Pasadena, California to New York, until May 1, 1957. Dr. Nettinga will be in charge of public relations, radio and television activities, encouragement of the use of the Bible, publication of the "Bible Society Record," and production of audio-visual materials.

During his work in the Southern California District Dr. Nettinga has increased the annual distribution of Scriptures there from 90,000 to 500,000 in approximately 40 languages and dialects. He has presented the work of the Society on radio and television on such programs as "The Bible in the News," "The Bible Speaks" and "The Bible Is My Beat."

Dr. Nettinga is an ordained minister of the Reformed



Dr. James Z. Nettinga

Church in America. He served as pastor of the East 89th St. Reformed Church, New York, from 1938 to 1942. He left this pastorate to become secretary of young people's work for the denomination. In 1946 he was named a secretary of the denomination's board of domestic missions, with special supervision of new church fields and the area of interracial activity.

In interdenominational work he has served as recording secretary of the Home Missions Council of North America; as member of the Joint Commission on Missionary Education, United Christian Youth Movement, and on the executive committee of the International Society

of Christian Endeavor.

Born in the parsonage of the Englewood, N.J. Reformed Church, Dr. Nettinga was educated in Michigan and New York and holds the earned degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology.

His wife is the former Margaret Diane Drew of Ridge-wood, N.J. They have two sons, Drew, 9, and Jon, 5.

The Bible Speaks to Youth Today

An opportunity to hear what young people think about the Bible came recently to the congregation of the Community Church in San Marino, California. The pastor of this Presbyterian Church is the Rev. Frederick W. Cropp, formerly General Secretary of the American Bible Society. A class of Junior High School students with several parental advisors studied the Bible for a year. At the end of their course of study several members of the group spoke briefly at a special service arranged by Gertrude Harberts, the church's minister of Christian education.

The following quotations are from three of the young people's testimonies:

"The Bible brings me close to God and to my family. When I was a little boy I learned the Old Testament stories, how God guided and cared for His people—Moses, Joshua, David—and how God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a guide to live by. Now I realize that the Ten Commandments are for me



too. The story I liked best was the story of Jesus, and how He came to teach men to love one another. Now the part I have just learned to appreciate is that Jesus died to give us eternal life."

"The Bible is a basis for learning and a comfort for many things. Many times when I've felt depressed I've repeated to myself Romans 9:31: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Another favorite of mine is Matthew 17:20: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you."

"The Bible is the history of people before and after the time of Jesus; an account of their culture, religion; the story of their trials, sorrows and joys. The

Bible is Christianity as related by people living during and after the time when Jesus was sharing His way of life by teaching it. The Bible carries word of such things as the Ten Commandments by which we live today, on which our government's laws are based. The Bible is the Word of God, and it is by that Word that we are comforted when things go wrong or when we are afraid; and in many instances when we alone do not have the power to go through with something, God will strengthen us."

An After-Christmas Story

ONE DAY over twenty years ago the Secretary of the Society's Haven Agency in Cleveland, Ohio was admitted to the office of Mr. J. W. Wills, Sr., head of the firm of The House of Wills. The Secretary explained the Society's purpose, objectives and program—its plan to widen the distribution and use of the Scriptures the world around.

Mr. Wills listened and was convinced. He agreed to underwrite the expenses of a project of a distribution program for the Haven Agency churches of Cleveland. His first order was for



five thousand Scripture Portions.

Every year since then the orders have been placed in even greater numbers, so that during the last ten years they have totaled 227,000. For thousands of persons these Portions have been the first Scripture volumes they ever owned.

So convinced is the House of Wills of the value of this program that their order for 1956 was for 30,000 books for distribution before Christmas. It is in a project of this sort that the Society's missionary

purpose is spelled out clearly.

YOUR 1956 INCOME TAX

GIFTS to the American Bible Society are deductible by donors from Federal income tax. This is called to the attention of our friends because the American Bible Society was inadvertently left out of the 1954 Internal Revenue Cumulative List of organizations contributions to which are deductible by donors from Federal income tax. A letter from P. Henry Needham, Chief, Pensions and Exempt Organizations Branch, dated July 8, 1955, reads in part:

Our records show that you have been held to be exempt from Federal income taxation and that contributions made to you are deductible by donors. Accordingly, your name should have appeared in the current Cumulative List. We regret that it was inadvertently omitted and appreciate Mr. Concannon's calling the matter to our attention.

We wish to assure you that a proper notation has been made to enter your name in an early edition of the weekly Internal Revenue Bulletin as an organization contributions to which are deductible. And in order to distinguish you from the new organizations listed therein, an asterisk will be placed after your name and a footnote printed below the list to indi-

cate that you are not a new organization and that your name should have appeared in the Cumulative List (IRS Publication No. 78), revised to October 31, 1954.

Our records disclose that you were held to be exempt from Federal income tax under the provisions of section 103(6) of the Revenue Act of 1928, and corresponding provisions of prior Revenue Acts, on February 18, 1931. That ruling was affirmed under section 101(6) of the Revenue Act of 1936 on April 29, 1938 and reaffirmed on May 23, 1945 and December 20, 1946 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1939, which corresponds to section 501(c)(3) of the code of 1954.

GET THIS ANNUITY...



It may mean

Longer Life for You—

It will mean

Better Life for Others!

THE *Peace of Mind* which comes from a regular income that never shrinks may add years to your life. Figures prove owners of Annuities live longer.

As a holder of an American Bible Society Annuity Agreement, you receive a generous check regularly, regardless of world conditions.

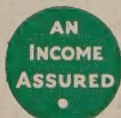
Such checks have been issued without fail for more than 100 years.

You enjoy SECURITY—SAFETY—SAVINGS in income tax—and, in addition, the permanent SATISFACTION of making the Bible more widely available throughout the World.

♦ ♦ ♦

Send for *A Gift That Lives*, an interesting booklet that explains the plan and how you can both give and receive generously at the same time.

Mail
This
Coupon
Today
Without
Fail!



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

Please send me without obligation your booklet 1 BSR57 entitled, *A Gift That Lives*.

Name

Address

City State

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY PARK -CALIF
LOS ANGELES 7 CALIF